

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Tank Factory at Ozimek	DATE DISTR.	8 May 1953
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
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1. A tank factory is located at Ozimek (Malapane-P51/T61), which is situated on the railroad line to Lubliniec, about 20 kilometers east of Opole (Oppeln). There is a railroad station at Ozimek which, although not very large from the point of view of passenger traffic, is well fitted for loading and unloading, since it has several large, strong loading platforms. Prior to the war, the factory produced pipes and tubes, but the Germans later converted it into tank production. After the war the plant with all its buildings, installations, and large stocks fell into the hands of the Soviets, who up until 1946 took all that they could, sent all equipment to the Soviet Union, and blew up some of the buildings.
2. Following Marshal Konstantin Rokossowski's arrival in Poland, but prior to late 1949, Poland began reconstructing the factory with the aid of machinery and equipment which the Soviet Union had sent back, and new machinery from Czechoslovakia and from Poland itself. The factory began partial operation in late 1950, but it was not until November 1951 that the entire factory began production; since that time, however, the factory has been operating at full capacity.
3. Since October or November 1951, the factory has been operating three shifts a day, each shift consisting of about 1,000 - 1,200 workers, all of whom come from the many densely populated villages in the surrounding area.

steel plates are shipped by rail to the plant from the direction of Katowice, as well as equipment such as engines and cannons. The finished tanks are loaded onto flatcars, one to each car, and are shipped either in the direction of Katowice or in the direction of Opole.

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4. A little distance to the east of the factory, a former German foundry, now called Huta Andrzejka, is being rebuilt. About 600 workers were employed in the

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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- 2 -

reconstruction of the foundry, and, when it begins operation, it will employ about 1,500 workers. The foundry is being set up to manufacture the steel plates, and possibly even the cannons, required for the construction of the tanks. In March 1952, reconstruction of the foundry had not been completed.

5. About two kilometers east of the tank factory and the foundry there is a very large electric power plant, which supplies power and lighting for the foundry and the factory, as well as lighting for the surrounding area. Both the foundry and the power plant were completely pillaged by the Soviets after the war, but were later rebuilt.
6. At the time that this area was under German rule, it contained many large feudal estates. After the war, these were divided up by the Polish Government among peasants and workers, with the condition that the new owner of the land would not build any habitation on his parcel of land. All of these former German estates have now been turned into state sovkhoses (PGRs). As a result of the extremely unpleasant and difficult working conditions, the sovkhoses have a great shortage of young workers, because all young persons of both sexes have moved into the towns to work in industries; in this particular area, they have all obtained work at the new tank factory. At the PGRs there remain only old men and women, and young children up to about 14 or 15 years of age; this has caused the PGRs never to be able to complete work assigned to them, either at planting time or at harvest time. The management of the tank factory has appealed several times to factory employees to assist the PGR, stating that this is in the factory workers' own interest since they will then be able to obtain more bread and potatoes.

1.   Comment:   the factory employs 5,000 workers.   the factory produces ammunition of various calibers, parts for weapons, and parts for tanks rather than completed tanks.

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